Bliicher appears to be extremely embarassed and constantly changes direction. I hope this will lead to some good result.

5th, Fismes:

I supposed that the Duke of Ragusa had reached Sois-sons yesterday; but the commandant was vile enough to evacuate without firing a shot. He evacuated with all his men with the honours of war and four guns. I am sending orders to the Minister of War to have him arrested, tried by a court-martial, and shot. He must be shot in the middle of the *Place de Greve,* and the execution must be made a conspicuous event. Five generals can be appointed to try him. Without any doubt the enemy's army was lost and would have been destroyed. As it is, I shall have to manoeuvre and lose much time throwing bridges.

Berry-au-bac, *4* [p]- [M]- •"

Wintzingerode's corps tried to prevent our crossing, but, on our infantry appearing, only Cossacks and Bask-irs remained to face us. We charged across the handsome bridge over the river Aisne.

, 6th. To-day I am marching on Laon to drive away the troops of the Crown Prince of Sweden and of Bliicher, on which we are daily inflicting serious losses.

7th, Craonne:

I have defeated Wintzingerode, Langeron, Voronzof, together with the remains of Sacken. I have taken 2000 prisoners, some cannon, and driven them from Craonne to the *Ange Gardien.* Craonne is a glorious success. The Duke of Belluno and General Grouchy were wounded.

My advance guard is nearing Laon.